

Bill Analysis

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Bill Number: | Senate Bill 1646 |
| Author: | Senator Alpert |
| Sponsor: | California Association of Suburban School Districts |
| Subject of Bill: | Baccalaureate degree in elementary education |
| Date Introduced: | February 21, 2002 |
| Date Amended: | July 3, 2002 |
| Status in Leg. Process: | Assembly Appropriations Committee |
| Current CCTC Position: | None |
| Recommended Position: | Watch |
| Date of Analysis: | July 5, 2002 |
| Analyst: | Anne L. Padilla |

Summary of Current Law

Education Code Section 44259 establishes the minimum requirements for preliminary multiple or single subject teaching credentials. These requirements include a Baccalaureate degree or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of postsecondary education, and except for out-of-state candidates specified in Section 44227, prohibits degrees in professional education. This same code section directs the Commission to offer undergraduate minors in education and special education to students who intend to become teachers.

Education Code Section 44259.1 describes integrated programs of subject matter and professional preparation ("blended programs") that enable candidates for teaching credentials to engage in professional preparation concurrent with subject matter preparation, while completing baccalaureate degrees at regionally accredited postsecondary institutions. These integrated programs are based on intensive collaboration among subject matter departments and education units within postsecondary institutions and local public elementary and secondary school districts and provide candidates opportunities with early field work experience in public elementary and secondary schools.

Education Code Section 66904 requires that all proposals for new postsecondary educational programs be forwarded to the California Postsecondary Education

Commission for review. “New programs” is further defined in this section as including all courses leading to a graduate or undergraduate degree.

Summary of Current Activity by the Commission

In 1998 the Commission sponsored legislation, SB 2042 (Alpert/Mazzoni), which among its provisions, established statutory authorization for integrated (“blended”) programs of subject matter preparation and professional preparation. The Commission has approved more than 25 blended programs statewide that integrate subject matter, pedagogy and early field experiences. These programs are sponsored by both public and private four-year universities.

The Commission has used both state and federal grant funds to encourage the establishment of blended programs. The Commission’s 1998-99 budget included \$350,000 to provide grants to public colleges and universities seeking accelerated approval to develop Blended Programs of Undergraduate Teacher Preparation. The Commission has also made available to public and private higher education institutions resources from California’s Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement State Grant to expand blended programs.

Analysis of Bill Provisions

This bill would require each campus of the California State University (CSU) and urge each campus of the University of California to establish a baccalaureate degree in elementary education, for the purpose of allowing candidates for multiple subject teaching credentials to study their professional preparation concurrently with their subject matter preparation.

The bill specifies that these baccalaureate degree programs in elementary education would:

- Provide opportunities for candidates to complete intensive field experiences in public elementary schools early in their undergraduate program;
- Be approved (for credentialing purposes) by the Commission using the same standards for program approval as all other programs must meet;
- Be developed and implemented based on collaboration and shared decision-making by each state university’s school or department of education and the subject matter departments within the state university, the local public elementary and unified school districts and where appropriate, the local community colleges;
- Be housed in the state university’s school or department of education;
- Require each candidate to have one area of emphasis that is a part of the adopted course of study commonly taught in grades 1 to 6, (English, mathematics, social sciences, science, visual and performing arts, health and physical education) that is grounded in one core academic area. The area of emphasis would be listed on each candidate's diploma;

- Requires that the degree program to incorporate substantively the latest research regarding infant and child brain development, as specified;
- Be based on and incorporate the California academic content standards and the state curriculum frameworks adopted by the State Board of Education;
- Be implemented only if the necessary federal waiver is granted to authorize specified students to be eligible for federal Pell Grants;
- Requires the Commission to encourage all University of California campuses as well as accredited private postsecondary institutions to offer baccalaureate degrees in elementary education.

Comments:

1. This bill mirrors many of the blended program elements contained in Education Code Section 44259.1.
2. Under current federal law, if an institution offers both undergraduate and graduate programs in teacher preparation, only the undergraduate students would be eligible for Pell grants. The author and sponsor are currently seeking a federal waiver from this requirement so that all students in teacher preparation programs, regardless of their standing, would be eligible for Pell grants.

Fiscal Analysis

Costs to the Commission: Unknown costs to the Commission to review new programs requiring Commission approval.

Costs to the CSU: Unknown but potentially significant costs to universities for the development and implementation of new programs.

Analysis of Relevant Legislative Policies by the Commission

The following Legislative policy applies to this measure:

1. **The Commission supports legislation which proposes to maintain or establish high standards for the preparation of public school teachers and other educators in California, and opposes legislation that would lower standards for teachers and other educators.**

Organizational Positions on the Bill

Support

California Association of Suburban School Districts (Sponsor)
 Association of School Administrators
 California Language Teachers Association
 California School Boards Association
 Fallbrook Unified Elementary School District
 Glendale Unified School District

Long Beach Unified School District
Los Angeles Unified School District
San Diego Unified School District
Tustin Unified School District

Oppose
California Faculty Association

Reason for Suggested Position

This measure most directly affects the California State University.